

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 EB-03 /040 W

----- 030905

R 241644Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4054

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5297

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, ELTN, ELAB, JO, LE, SA, US

REF: BEIRUT 4736 AND A-88; JIDDA 2833, AMMAN 2687

SUMMARY: IN WAKE LAST WEEK'S DISTURBANCES, GOL NOT
RPT NOT YET MOVING ON TAPLINE PROBLEM BUT DODGE
REACTIVATING IT THROUGH LABOR CHANNEL. HE THINKS
GOL MIGHT VISIT RIYADH THIS WEEK OR NEXT. END
SUMMARY

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON TAPLINE'S DODGE TO UPDATE
SITUATION AFTER LAST WEEK'S CRISIS HERE. DODGE
INDICATED ONLY GOL MOVEMENT, UNDERSTANDABLY, IS THAT
CAUSED BY HIM. HE CALLED THIS WEEK ON LABOR MINISTER
TO "REMIND" HIM OF APRIL 3 TAPLINE LETTER WHICH
ANNOUNCES POSSIBILITY OF TERMINATING TAPLINERS
BEGINNING MAY 4 UNDER ECONOMIC DISTRESS CLAUSE OF
AMENDED LABOR CODE (ARTICLE 50F). INFORMED LABORMIN
TAPLINE WORKING ON TERMINATION SCHEDULES. (FYI
INFORMED EMBOFF NO RPT NO DECISION YET TO TERMINATE
AND THAT LINE BEING MOTHBALLED, NOT ABANDONED, SO SOME
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WORKERS WILL BE RETAINED. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW

HOW MANY WOULD BE TERMINATED IN FIRST TRANCHE BUT
THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SIZEABLE NUMBER. END FYI).

2. DODGE ALSO TOLD LABORMIN PRIME MINISTER SHOULD
VISIT RIYADH SOONEST, WHILE YAMANI THERE. LABORMIN
AGREED, SAID HE WOULD PASS THIS TO PRIMIN TODAY. HE
AND DODGE AGREED IT WOULD MAKE GREATER IMPRESSION
ON SAUDIS IF PRIMIN LEFT LEBANON DURING THESE
TROUBLED DAYS TO DISCUSS TAPLINE PROBLEM WITH SAG.
DODGE SUGGESTED PRIMIN COULD GO DOWN AND BACK SAME
DAY, LEAVING TEAM BEHIND FOR SUBSTANTIVE TALKS. HE
THINKS, BUT NOT CERTAIN, THAT GOL MIGHT VISIT RIYADH
THIS WEEK OR NEXT.

3. DODGE SAID GOL HEARTENED BY YAMANI OKAY
INTERVIEW JIDDA REFTEL BUT DODGE HIMSELF SEES
LITTLE TANGIBLE IN IT.

4. DODGE SAID TWO "NOT VERY HIGH LEVEL" SYRIANS
HAD TRAVELED TO RIYADH TO ASCERTAIN TAPLINE
SITUATION. HE THINKS SYRIAN BLESSING OF TAPLINE
NEGOTIATIONS IMPORTANT TO SAUDIS.

5. DODGE PLANS NO NEW INITIATIVES IMMEDIATE
FUTURE UNTIL GOL INTENTIONS KNOWN.
COMMENT: IT IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT CONTINUATION
IN OFFICE THIS GOL CABINET UNCERTAIN AFTER
LAST WEEK'S EVENTS. FREQUENT CHANGES IN
GOVERNMENT SINCE 1973 HAVE ENABLED GOL TO POSTPONE
FACING AND RESOLVING TAPLINE AND SEVERAL OTHER
LONG-STANDING PROBLEMS BUT TAPLINE UNLIKELY PERMIT
ANOTHER LONG DELAY IF THIS GOVERNMENT FALLS. IN
CONCENTRATING ON LABOR CHANNEL, DODGE PROBABLY
PURSUING MOST PROMISING AVENUE FOR KEEPING GOL
MOVING ON PROBLEM. NOTWITHSTANDING DODGE'S EFFORTS, IN
VIEW OF CURRENT LEBANESE CRISIS, I SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT
ANY IMPORTANT LEBANESE DELEGATION WILL BE APPEARING
IN JIDDA FOR SOME TIME.
GODLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, NEGOTIATIONS, PETROLEUM PIPELINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT05297
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: ///////////////////////////////////////
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750144-0879
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750418/aaaaaqnf.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: BEIRUT 4736, BEIRUT A-88, JIDDA 2833, AMMAN 2687, 75 BEIRUT 4736, 75 AND A-88
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TAPLINE SITUATION-LABOR APPROACH
TAGS: ENRG, ELTN, ELAB, JO, LE, SA, US, TAPLINE, USA CORPS OF ENGINEERS, (LEE, FREDERICK S)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006